



Case Docket No.: 65,008-061

Date: April 27, 2006

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

**In re application of: Hughes et al.**

**Serial No.: 10/567,989**

**Filed: February 10, 2006**

**Group Art Unit: To Be Assigned**

**Examiner: To Be Assigned**

**For: CONNECTION ASSEMBLY FOR  
FLEXIBLE CONTAINERS**

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**  
**UNDER 37 CFR 1.97 AND 1.98**

**Mail Stop Amendment**  
**Commissioner for Patents**  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.97 and 37 CFR 1.98 and in compliance with 37 CFR 1.56, Applicant hereby makes of record the patents, publications, or other information listed on the attached Form PTO/SB/08A. Applicant respectfully requests that the Office consider the patents, publications, or other information and make these of record in the subject application.

The above identified patent application is being or was filed after June 30, 2003, such that copies of each cited U.S. Patent and each cited U.S. Patent Application Publication are not required to be submitted, see MPEP 609. However, copies of the remaining patents and publications, if any, are enclosed herewith. None of the patents, publications, or other information being provided discloses the inventive concepts claimed in the subject application.

Applicant's understanding of the relevance of German Publication No. DE 19609110 is found in the enclosed English language abstract. As for French Publication No. 552325, this publication appears to disclose a multi-piece ring for mounting to an opening of a bag.

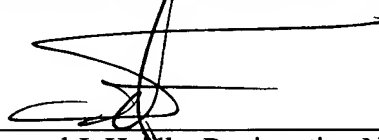
Also, submitted herewith, for the Examiner's convenience, is a search report from the corresponding PCT patent application which lists some of the patents, publications, or information on Form PTO/SB/08A and indicates the degree of relevancy found by the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

The Information Disclosure Statement transmitted herewith is being filed within three (3) months of the filing date of the application or before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits. Accordingly, it is believed that no fee is due.

In addition to the above, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Howard & Howard Attorneys, P.C. Deposit Account No. 08-2789 for any additional fees or credit any overpayment.

Respectfully submitted,

**HOWARD & HOWARD ATTORNEYS, P.C.**

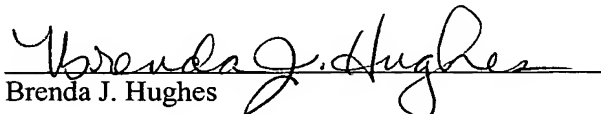


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The Pinehurst Office Center  
39400 Woodward Avenue, Suite 101  
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48304-5151  
(248) 723-0334

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that the attached **Information Disclosure Statement, PTO/SB/08A, copies of foreign patents/publications, and return post card** are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to the **Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450**, on **April 27, 2006**.

  
Brenda J. Hughes



Complete if Known

## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet	1	of	2
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Application Number	10/567,989
Filing Date	February 10, 2006
First Named Inventor	Derek Hughes
Art Unit	To Be Assigned
Examiner Name	To Be Assigned
Attorney Docket Number	65.008-061

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sub>6</sub>
		Country Code <sup>3</sup> Number <sup>4</sup> Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)				
		GB 2 039 842 A	8/20/1980	David J. Pye		
		DE 196 08 110 A1	9/4/1997	Undine Soltau		
		FR 552325	11/30/1956			

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. <sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard St.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard St. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached. This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 C.F.T. 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.**

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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO		Complete if Known	
<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>  (use as many sheets as necessary)		Application Number	10/567,989
		Filing Date	February 10, 2006
		First Named Inventor	Derek Hughes
		Art Unit	To Be Assigned
		Examiner Name	To Be Assigned
		Attorney Docket Number	65,008-061
Sheet	2	of	2

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Examiner Initials	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document Country Code <sup>3</sup> Number <sup>4</sup> Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sub>6</sub>

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date\*\*, Relevant Pages, Place of Publication\*\*\*)

	PCT International Search Report Application No. PCT/GB 2004/003457; International Filing Date 8/11/2004; Applicant is EZI-Dock Systems Limited
	English Abstract for DE 196 08 110 A1
EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.	

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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